

March 24, 2026

Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

Established in 1875, B'nai Brith Canada has been this country's longest-serving human rights organization. We challenge antisemitism and all forms of hatred with resolve. We provide essential food and housing assistance to communities across the country. And we stand firm, without hesitation, wherever human rights are on the line, turning our principles into action every single day.

This written submission has been drafted on behalf of Toronto's mainstream Jewish community in support of **Item MM39.62, Building a Made in Toronto Community Safety Plan Protecting Residents at Bathurst Street and Sheppard Avenue and across Toronto.**

As a champion of human rights, B'nai Brith Canada respects the sanctity of the fundamental rights and freedoms of all Canadians, including the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. However, despite Toronto Police spending over \$19 million dollars to police demonstrations and conducting more than 60,000 community visits since October 7, 2023, Jewish persons have increasingly become the targets of physical assault, threatening harassment, and grotesque intimidation. Jewish institutions and Jewish owned businesses have been repeatedly the targets of caustic protests, vandalism, arsons, shootings, and bomb threats.

The antisemitism plaguing our society has now spilled into our residential neighbourhoods. For over two years, residents, families, seniors, students, and community institutions have been forced to contend with repeated demonstrations in spaces where people should be able to live, walk, pray, and gather in peace. With increasing frequency, protests in North York have devolved into the intimidation of members of the Jewish community on residential streets.

Over the last several weeks, in the wake of multiple incidents of gunfire targeting synagogues and Jewish owned businesses, extremists openly made threats of violence, glorified terrorism, and depicted Jews as sub-human at protests at Bathurst and Sheppard. We commend Toronto Police for their recent efforts to restrict anti-Israel demonstrators from residential areas in the Bathurst and Sheppard neighbourhood, but the persistent attacks on our community require a bold response. As elected officials, we implore you to act decisively to protect the residents you represent, including Jewish Torontonians.

The City of Toronto must operationalize tools adopted by City Council such as the *City Response to Demonstrations* and *The City of Toronto Hate Sponsored Rallies Policy*. The city must put pressure on the federal and provincial government to establish a law enforcement task force to combat antisemitism and other acts of hate and terror. The city must also support the objectives outlined in correspondence from the Toronto Police Association, Toronto Professional Firefighter Association, Toronto Civic Employees' Union, and the Toronto Transit Commission.

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We therefore urge Council to support Item MM39.62 in its entirety to ensure the continued protection and security of Toronto's Jewish community.

Sincerely,



Simon Wolle
Chief Executive Officer
B'nai Brith Canada